

The Parish VISITOR



"Be Transformed...By the renewing of your minds." - Romans 12:2 - NIV

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 Clinton St., Los Angeles, CA 90004-2298
The REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY, Pastor

cpchollywood.org

**JULY
2023**

VOL. LXXV11 NO. 7



your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the readers of the *Parish Visitor!*

Following is the message I gave on Pentecost Sunday. It was a follow up to the Centennial message. I pray it encourages you.

In the Power of the Holy Spirit, originally given on Pentecost Sunday, 2023, at CPC.

Introduction: Today is Pentecost. Today, we remember and celebrate the

Father and the Lord Jesus pouring out the Holy Spirit on his church. This week, and next week, in conjunction with Pentecost, I want to expand on the Centennial message from last week. We will get back to Ephesians after these two messages.

In the Centennial message, I showed from scripture that the church is called to both proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God, and to demonstrate the power of the kingdom.

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**JOIN US AT
CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD**

In addition to the in-person worship, we continue to stream the service on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person.

The invitation for joining the service can be found at the events page on our website at cpchollywood.org.

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to sbaroldy@gmail.com or text at 323-202-5078.

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional, healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered in JESUS CHRIST.



“REPENT,
for the
kingdom of heaven
is at hand.”
(MATTHEW 3:1–2, ESV)

Proclamation and demonstration. Both are needed. And both are done in the power of the Holy Spirit. So, the title of today’s message is “In the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus is baptized and the heavens opened: Now, our model for ministry is the Lord Jesus. So, this morning, I want to take a deeper look at Jesus’ baptism and his temptation. Both will help us understand how Jesus did his ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. I want to begin with Jesus’ baptism.

Jesus allows himself to be baptized by John the Baptist. John was called by God to prepare the way for the Messiah’s arrival. Mat. 3:1-2 tells us, *“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”* (Matthew 3:1–2, ESV)

And it’s interesting the Jesus begins his public ministry with these same words. In Mat 4:17, Jesus says, “From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” (Matt. 4:17, ESV)

So, before Jesus came on the scene, John the Baptist was prophesying about Jesus’ coming and about Jesus’ ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here’s another prophesy of John the Baptist. In Mat 3:11, John prophesies this, *“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* (Matthew 3:11, ESV)

So, here, John prophesies that Jesus’ followers would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Our baptism with the Holy Spirit is a key part of God’s plan for his kingdom.

Now, John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. Jesus was sinless and did not need to repent. Yet, Jesus allowed himself to be baptized to completely identify with us humans; to completely identify with our human experience. And, one reason that’s important is because Jesus would do his ministry as a human empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Now, two vital things happened when Jesus was baptized. Matt. 3:16-17 tells us about Jesus’ baptism. Let’s read it. “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*” (Matthew 3:16–17, ESV)

So, first, when Jesus was baptized, it says, “the heavens were opened to him.” Luke’s account of Jesus’ baptism is in Luke 3:21. Luke 3:21 says, *“Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened,”* (Luke 3:21, ESV).

Luke’s account gives us the detail that after Jesus was baptized, Jesus was praying. And then it says, “the heavens were opened.” So, the heavens opened in response to Jesus’ prayer.

So, what does it mean *“the heavens were opened.”*

**"THIS IS MY
beloved Son,
WITH WHOM
I AM WELL
PLEASED."**

(MATTHEW 3:16–17, ESV)

This means all the resources of heaven were now available to Jesus. Remember, Jesus did his ministry as a human, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and not as God.

Now, here is what I want us to see. Later on, in Matthew, Jesus taught his disciples to pray what we call the Lord's prayer. The Lord's prayer says, "*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*"

At Jesus' baptism, the heavens were opened. It is now possible for the Father's kingdom to come, and the Father's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Understand, the heavens are still open for us today. The resources of heaven are all available to us today. This is why Jesus calls us to pray the Lord's prayer today. The Lord's prayer is a prayer for God's kingdom to come to earth today. The Lord's prayer is a prayer for God's will to be done on earth today.

How is this possible? It's possible in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enables God's kingdom to come and God's will to be done in our lives and in our spheres of influence.

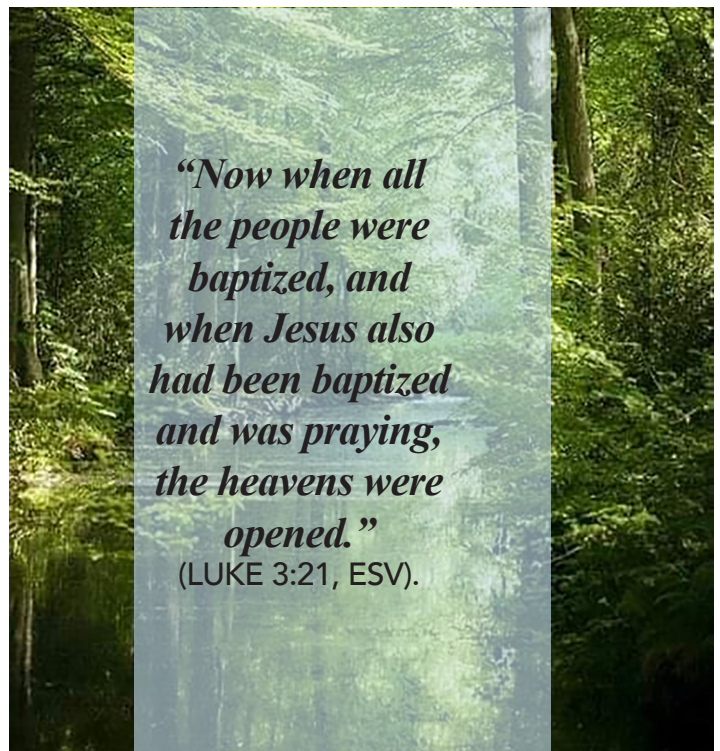
And so, when we pray today, remember, because of Jesus, the heavens are open. So, pray with boldness. And, I encourage us to pray the Lord's prayer every day, and then ask the Holy Spirit to guide us that day.

Jesus is baptized and the Spirit rests on him: Now, here, is the second thing that happens during Jesus' baptism. The text says, "*and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him [on Jesus].*"

Immediately after Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven and came to rest on Jesus. Jesus did not begin his earthly ministry until the Holy Spirit came to rest on him. Jesus did his ministry of proclamation and demonstration in the power of the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of God rested on him.

And, this is the same way we do our ministry of proclamation and demonstration. We also do it in the power of the Holy Spirit, as the Holy Spirit rests on us. We will look at this more next week.

But before Jesus ascends in the book of Acts, Jesus makes this promise in Acts 1:8. "*But you [Jesus' disciples] will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8, ESV)



Again, Jesus is our model. The Holy Spirit came to rest on Jesus at his baptism. And the Holy Spirit comes to rest on us when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. How are we baptized in the Holy Spirit? We pray and ask for it. And we trust that God answers that prayer.

And not only once. Each and every day, we can pray for the Holy Spirit to come and rest on us, to anoint us. Amen!

So, two vital things happened at Jesus' baptism. The heavens were opened and remain open. And the Holy Spirit came to rest on Jesus.

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JESUS
showed us, that in the
POWER OF THE
Holy Spirit,
we, too, can have vic-
tory over the devil.

Jesus' Temptation: Now, after Jesus was baptized, he was immediately led into the wilderness by the Spirit of God. Mat. 4:1 says, *"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."* (Matthew 4:1, ESV)

So, immediately after his baptism, and immediately after God says, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,"* the Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Why would the Spirit do this?

Well, first, Jesus completely identified with the human experience. Jesus knew his disciples would be tempted by the devil. And he wanted to provide us a model for how to deal with the devil's temptations.

Second, the Holy Spirit wanted the devil to know there was a new sheriff in town. The devil got the best of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were sinless when they encountered the devil in the Garden. Yet, the devil was crafty enough to deceive them. The devil deceived them into disobeying God, with tragic consequences.

Yet now, the devil would experience a different result. Jesus also was sinless when he went into the wilderness. And, empowered by the Spirit of God, and using the word of God as his weapon, Jesus resisted all the devil's temptations. Unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus left the wilderness still sinless having triumphed over the devil.

Jesus showed us, that in the power of the Holy Spirit, we, too, can have victory over the devil. Today, in Christ, we are

seen by God as sinless. This doesn't mean we never sin. It means our sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus.

So, how do we defeat the devil today? The same way Jesus did. We anchor ourselves in the word of God, and we plead the blood of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. 12:3 says, *"And they [Jesus' disciples] have conquered him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."* (Revelation 12:11, ESV)

Jesus defeated the devil in the wilderness and on the Cross. For, Christians, the devil is defeated. The devil is not gone, yet he is defeated. And he ultimately will be locked away forever when Jesus Christ returns. Yet, we need to enforce Jesus' victory. The devil will tempt us today. We overcome that temptation by pleading the blood of the Lamb, and by using the word of God.

Jesus Christ is our model for ministry. Because of him, we pray to an open heaven. We pray for the Holy Spirit to come and rest on us each day. The devil is defeated and we keep him at bay by pleading the blood of the Lamb and using the word of God. This is how we will meet the darkness of the coming days. Amen!

See you next month,
Pastor Steve

CPC Pioneer



Josephine was a pioneer at CPC who helped the early members of our church when they became interned at the relocation camps. She was a great friend when our members needed her.

(Tom Chinen)

Off to College



Rev. Steve Baroldy, Sis. Maria Cardena and Ida Murakawa pray over Donna, who is graduating from high and will soon start her college education. (Photo by Suzan Rosal)



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done,
On earth as It is In Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom and
the Power and the Glory forever.

Amen



“GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.... The Lord of hosts is with us; the GOD of Jacob is our fortress.”
(PSALM 46:1-3 &11)

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING:

- We remembered that we are **“A people called out to worship our Lord Jesus Christ and to witness to HIS Love for the world.”** This is a community who prays for one another and stays in fellowship through many trials and tribulations, held together by grace of GOD and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

- We are thankful! that “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence...” (Ephesian 1:7-8)

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING:

- For those families who have lost a loved one:

“¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

- For those who mourn their own sin and for the sins of others:

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4)

- For Patti who suffers the loss of her hours old, precious, baby girl, Deborah.

FOR SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR HEALING:

- Carol Eng who had a stroke mid of May, and peace for her husband Hank.

- Brian and Denise Albriton to be healed for the inside out.
- Irene Mayeda who has a swollen ankle.
- Alice Pourrat who has ulcerative colitis. She is in remission from the inflammation.
- Phillip Nozaki who is undergoing medical treatment.
- Alison Puzio, Hollywood area director or Young Life, who has extreme fatigue.
- Susan Rosal who has had sciatica flair ups.
- Alicia who is having severe lower back pain and dizziness.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOME BOUND OR IN A CARE FACILITY:

Michiko Yamazaki, Teresa Peterek (in extended care), Leland Hayashi, Joan Janecek, Barbara Kashiwagi, Kimi Fujitani, Karen Koranye, Frank Morimoto, Janet Nozaki, Jean Sakai, Irene Mayeda caring for her mother Harumi. May each one daily know the comfort and care of our Lord Jesus Christ. And may they each be filled with hope and strength needed for each day.

GENERAL:

- For the 50 kids (none are believers) attending a Young Life Summer Camp in June or July. (Camps are 5 days long). Pray that they receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Please keep on praying for them as many return to hostile homes and world environments.

- Family and friends – that they hunger for righteousness: David, Frank, Caylee...
- As we pray for our local and national politics that we would not become discouraged and not grow weary of praying. We remember that GOD is on the Throne. He is sovereign and HIS ways are Good.

MISSION PARTNERSHIP:

Kostovs: Noah finished his senior year of high school through home-schooling. He will be going to St. Olaf University in the Fall. His two brothers, Daniel and Mattias live less than an hour away. Please pray for Noah's transition into college life and for Teresa and Viktor's transitioning into "empty nesters" life.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20 & 21)

(June 2023)

FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 2023



	JUNE 2023	YTD
Receipts	\$ 8,836	\$ 68,464
Disbursements	\$ 11,098	\$ 83,488
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 2,262)	(\$ 15,024)

Gifts & Offering

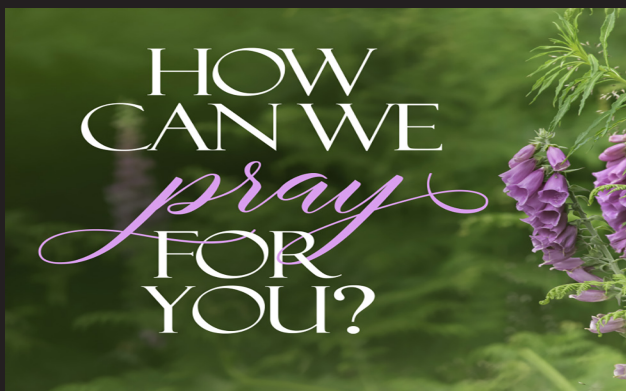


We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our ministry.

Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

**Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 Clinton Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004**

"Per a suggestion from a reader, we are looking into adding a payment link to our newsletter to make it easier to contribute."



If you have prayer requests, you can send them via email or text PRIOR to our service each Sunday.

My email is sbaroldy@gmail.com.

You can text me at

323-202-5078.

The Cheerful Giver

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency[b] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD



**SUNDAYS at 11:00 A.M.
IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySjBjL1VkUmhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031
Password: 351955
One tap mobile
+16699006833,,384758031# US (San Jose)
+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)

*"Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional
healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the
wholeness of life offered by Jesus Christ."*

DATED MATERIAL

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